

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

The Office Action of May 19, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-12 and 14-16 are pending in the application, and claim 13 was previously canceled. In this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 12 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 7 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4-9, 12, and 14-15 have been deemed allowable.

The Final Rejection

Claims 1-3, 10-11 and 16 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuoki (JP 11321465) in view of Masaaki (JP 4185547), and claim 12 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasuoki (JP 11321465). Applicants have canceled finally rejected claims 1, 10, 12 and 16. The Applicants have amended claims 2 and 11 to depend from allowable independent claims and they have rewritten allowable claim 7 in independent form. The Applicants respectfully submit that all the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

The Information Disclosure Statement Dated December 22, 2004

The Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on December 22, 2004, but an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 was not received. Accordingly, a duplicate copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and references are attached to

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this Amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to include an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the next Office Action.

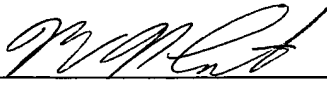
CONCLUSION


All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard J. McGrath (Reg. No. 29,195), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Copy of Information Disclosure Statement filed December 22, 2004